



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



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**TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY
Commerce Committee—March 2, 2010**

S.B. No. 324 AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AND THE STATE'S ECONOMY

This proposed bill would stimulate progressive, structured development of in-state renewable energy technologies and it would streamline opportunities for customers to participate in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, create local jobs, infrastructure and energy independence, and effectively deploy federal stimulus funds. We support this bill.

Connecticut has set aggressive policy goals to attain maximum energy efficiency and renewable technologies. They include provisions to implement the maximum level of feasible energy efficiency, renewable portfolio standards, in the regional greenhouse gas initiative, contracts with project 150 renewable resources, reduction in electric loads by 20% by 2020, and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In this session, we are advocating that policy makers look carefully at questions of rate impacts, balance of technologies vs. costs, and local job creation.

One component of the proposed bill would provide for careful planning and deployment of renewable technologies in order to contribute to the State's energy goals. The bill includes a grid-side "In-State Stimulus" provision that would phase-in 100 MWs of cost-based Class I renewables by December 2013. Under this provision, electric distribution companies would be authorized to work in collaboration with local equipment manufacturers and craft workers, to install, own and operate grid-connected Class 1 renewables. A new Energy Innovation Council, made up of the DPUC, Institute for Sustainable Energy, the Clean Energy Fund and CT Center for Advanced Technology, would oversee the process to assure that the proper mix of technologies and costs are included in the plan. This approach should permit the state to have confidence that the costs of projects are appropriate, that they properly balance the benefits and burdens of individual projects, and that they result in an efficient use of customer funds.